Friends of the Columbia Gorge protects, preserves, and stewards the Columbia Gorge for generations to come.

Photo: Robert Meyers.
# Hike Leader & Shepherd Manual

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*Updated 4/7/2022*
Ensuring the Gorge remains a vibrant, living place—wondrous, wild, and open to all—is at the core of what we do.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge works to protect, preserve, and steward the Columbia Gorge. We led the fight to create the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area over 40 years ago. And we’ve been working ever since to safeguard the Gorge and ensure the natural wonders found today will be preserved for generations to come.

Friends brings together a broad and diverse coalition of people who share a common love for the Gorge and want to see it responsibly stewarded and protected. And our hike and outdoor programs have been a vital tool in Friends public engagement efforts for decades.

Our hikes have been a springtime tradition in the Pacific Northwest since our inception in 1980. Our first Gorge Hike Weekend was on the third weekend in June when experienced hike leaders from a variety of outdoor groups and clubs led as many as a thousand hiking enthusiasts on dozens of hikes, bike rides, horseback riding trips, and rafting adventures throughout the Gorge.

These outings continued until the early 1990’s when Friends developed spring wildflower hikes which follow the annual Gorge wildflower display from east to west through the blooming season. Wildflower experts and native plant enthusiasts led these increasingly popular hikes to iconic vistas that overlook the Gorge.

In 2000, Friends added a new element to our hike program—hike shepherds. The next year, Friends added an additional hike season to highlight fall colors in the Gorge. A hike challenge was started in 2011 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Scenic Area Act. In 2017 we started to increase family friendly hikes and add a wider array of activities—including more paddles and bike rides.

And in 2019-20, we added a new focus on creating more diverse recreation opportunities for communities who have been historically excluded and underrepresented in the outdoors. As part of this shift, we changed the program name from "hike program" to "outdoor programs," both to reflect the wider array of outings now offered as well as our new emphasis on more effectively engaging historically marginalized communities.

Our members, volunteers, and activists are the heart and soul of our conservation efforts here at Friends. And we’d like to thank you for volunteering as a hike leader and shepherd to share your love of the Gorge. Support from volunteers like you are critical to ensuring the Gorge is protected, preserved, and stewarded for generations to come.
All Friends hikes and outings have a trained hike leader or shepherd equipped to lead participants into Columbia Gorge outdoor spaces. Hike leaders and shepherds are mostly volunteers, but can include members of Friends staff.

Leaders are passionate and savvy about the outdoors. They are experienced and safety-oriented hikers who know the outing location and surrounding area well, set good examples of being a steward by following Prepare.Care.Connect principles, and are over-prepared. As a hike leader, you are representing Friends of the Columbia Gorge, it is important for you to have patience, lead with grace, and impart both a sense of wonder about the Gorge and underscore the importance of protecting, preserving, and stewarding the Gorge for future generations. And as a hike shepherd you are a vital element in providing a safe and inclusive experience for all participants, particularly those who might not walk or hike as fast as others.

The main difference between both roles is that the hike leader is leading the group at all times, and the hike shepherd is at the back of the outing group ensuring no participant gets left behind. The hike leader chooses outing location and route.

Role of the Hike Leader & Hike Shepherd

- Engage participants by letting them know about Friends and the outdoor program;
- Share their knowledge, enthusiasm, and expertise about the Gorge and its natural, cultural, and recreational resources;
- Gauge the group’s overall comfort with the pace, and ensure there are adequate amounts of breaks;
- Have good people skills and be able to support and encourage participants during the outing;
- Maintain patience when attendees are traveling at a slower pace than the rest of the group or struggling with the length or elevation of the trip.
- Set a welcoming and supportive tone for the group
- Be prepared to aid any injured or impaired hikers in your group. First aid & CPR certification is required for both roles.
Hike Leaders and Shepherds Work as a Team

It is important for the hike leader and shepherd to work together as a team to create a welcoming, safe, and inclusive outing.

The hike leader and shepherd must be willing to meet outing participants where they are in terms of comfort in the outdoors and physical ability. During outings, it is the job of both the leader and shepherd to support participants as they connect with Gorge outdoor spaces, whether participants are novice or experienced adventurers.

Throughout the outing, hike leader and shepherd should be communicating consistently and monitoring participants and the surrounding area to ensure everyone remains safe. Teamwork and great communication between leader and shepherd will make for an enjoyable and safe outdoor experience for all. Together, it is the responsibility of the hike leader and shepherd to return participants back to the trailhead at the end of the outing.

Hike Leader & Shepherd Expectations

- Read and follow the protocols listed in Friends Hike Leader & Shepherd Manual;
- Attend Hike Leader & Shepherd training every two years;
- Complete all the Pre-hiking planning requirements on page;
- Carry necessary documents on outings;
- Wait at all junctions to assure the group stays together;
- Go the pace of the group, you may need to slow down your normal hiking pace;
- Stay on the trail to minimize impact on the land, this will help avoid poison oak and ticks;
- Stop the spread of invasive species by using a boot brush, available at many trailheads;
- Carry the “10 Essentials” plus extra supplies for participants and extended-stay gear;
  - Leader and shepherd need to carry a fully stocked first aid kit in pack;
- Carry a trash bag and set an example of being a good trail steward by picking up trash;
- Practice Prepare.Care.Connect ethics.
How to Become a Hike Leader or Shepherd

- Submit a Volunteer Application (new volunteers only);
- Attend a Hike Leader & Shepherd Training every 2 years, offered every spring and fall;
- Read the Hike Leader & Shepherd Manual entirely; sign Agreement at the end of the document;
- To become a hike leader you need to co-lead 2 outings;
- To become a shepherd you need to co-shepherd 2 outings;
- Get certified in Basic First Aid + CPR (required).
  - Friends will help subsidize fees (up to $) to take a Basic First Aid & CPR course. We expect that you will lead or shepherd three or more outings within the two years your certification remains current. Maximum allowance of one subsidy every two years, per person.
  - Friends will reimburse you up to $60 if you take an outside course. You must submit a copy of receipt and certification. Note: if it does not also include CPR, you still need to get CPR certified.

Hike Leader & Shepherd Documents

It is required to have the following documents in your pack when leading or shepherding a Friends outing.

- Sign-in Form/Roster | Liability Waiver
- COVID-19 FAQ sheet
- Early Sign-out Form | Liability Release
- Trailhead Checklist
- Trailhead Talking Points
- Emergency Action Plan, Runner Card, & Lost Person Protocol

Hike Leader & Shepherd documents are found online at gorgefriends.org/hikeleaderdocuments.

If you don’t have access to a printer to print these documents, please contact the Outdoor Programs & Communications Specialist at hikes@gorgefriends.org

Updated 4/7/2022
Pre-outing Planning

Pre-outing planning is essential to providing a safe, educational, and positive experience for all outing participants. It is important that the hike leader and shepherd(s) work as a team and communicate, plan, and coordinate in order to have a successful outing.

Friends’ outdoor programs & communications specialist will send out a leader & shepherd introduction email 3-4 weeks prior to the outing, which includes full outing details, and event registration page. Each outing participant will receive a confirmation email upon registering, and a reminder email three-five days before the outing from the outdoor programs & communications specialist. If leaders or shepherds have any materials or updates they want to share with participants before the outing (checklist, map, etc.), please email the outdoor programs & communications specialist at hikes@gorgefriends.org.

The hike leader and shepherd will receive a roster, liability waiver, and sign-in sheet at least two days before the outing from the outdoor programs & communications specialist. Hike leaders and shepherds must schedule a scouting to prepare for the outing no more than two weeks before the outing. If a major weather event happens the week before the outing, if safe, the leader and shepherd should coordinate to scout 2-3 days prior to the actual outing to see the most up to date trail conditions and assess whether the outing will occur.
Pre-outing Planning Contd.

During outing scouting, leaders and shepherds need to:

- Check current trail conditions and locate hazards and obstacles.
  - Are there drop offs, poison oak, downed trees, river/creek crossings, ticks, rattlesnakes, talus or loose rock? Discuss and prepare for how you will assist & navigate participants through these obstacles.
- Check (periodically) cell phone reception on the trail/day-use area. It is important to know where you will and won’t have cell reception in case of an emergency.
- Assess parking spaces and check if trailhead/day-use area requires a fee or pass.
- Designate a bathroom stop prior to trailhead, if one is not available at trailhead.
- Locate sites for on-trail activities. Look for places on the trail for breaks, interpretive talks, lunch, viewpoints.
- Coordinate who will:
  - Ensure each participant is signed in, has signed liability waiver, and showed vaccination proof;
  - Ensure all hikers are properly dressed and equipped;
  - Begin the trailhead welcome circle and introductions;
  - Deliver the trailhead checklist/talking points;
  - Ask participants if there is anyone with CPR/ first aid and/or Wilderness First Responder or Wilderness First Aid training, or if there is a first responder;
  - Handle early sign-outs;
- Locate turn-back points for long hikes (over 5 miles).
- Have a plan for emergency situations, lost person, or for poor weather.
  - Review Emergency Action Plan, be up to date with First Aid & CPR certification;
  - Review Lost Person Protocol;
  - Check weather constantly before the event and morning of, weather can change rapidly so have a plan, turn-back point, or identify safety zones and sheltered areas if group is found in dangerous weather;
- Verify driving directions and if there is road construction;

As outing approaches, check forecast for the day of the outing and alert Friends’ outdoor programs & communications specialist if information should be included in the reminder email sent to participants.
Day of - At the Trailhead/Day-Use Area

Hike leaders and shepherd(s) should:

- Arrive to the trailhead/outing location at least 20 minutes prior to event start time;
- Greet participants as they arrive and introduce yourselves as the outing leaders;
- Ensure that participants have signed in, signed liability waiver and shown vaccination proof;
- Designate a safe and quiet area near the parking area to gather the group in a circle and begin the welcome after everyone has arrived and signed in. Use and present the trailhead talking points;
- Ask participants if there is anyone with CPR/ first aid and/ or Wilderness First Responder or Wilderness First Aid training, or if there is a first responder;
- Use the trailhead checklist to identify any participant that might be unprepared for this hike.
  - When participants check in, the hike leader and shepherd should make sure all attendees are properly equipped to be in a wilderness area or possess the appropriate gear to safely recreate in the outing. It is important that attendees are aware of apparel and footwear expectations beforehand, so that the chances of asking a participant to leave due to not being properly equipped is minimized as much as possible;
  - Recommendations for apparel and gear are included in each event registration page, as well as in the reminder email sent to participants 3-5 days before the outing. If the hike leader or shepherd have any recommendations for participants before the outing they should email the outdoor programs and communications specialist at hikes@gorgefriends.org;
  - If an unprepared person is identified, privately take them aside and kindly ask that they leave due to the dangers they could face by being unequipped. You must lead and act within the best interest of your entire group. One unprepared person can ruin the entire day for the group;
  - When would an unequipped participant be asked to leave?
    - Not dressed for cold or wet weather, did not bring layers;
    - Wearing inappropriate footwear. For example, sandals on rocky terrain;
    - Did not bring water or food for a full day outing.
Day of - At the Trailhead/Day-Use Area Contd.

- Repeat trail information and communicate plans for the hike. Advise people regarding restroom availability, lunch stops, what pace you will set on this outing, if you plan to stop to identify plants or wildlife, if outing will be silent to appreciate sounds of nature. Set expectations at the start of outing;
- Ensure outing group is not too large. Unregistered hikers can join the outing if it does not exceed maximum number of hikers, they must provide COVID-19 vaccination proof, sign in, read and sign liability waiver, and provide emergency contact information.

Day of - On the Trail/Day-Use Area

Hike leaders and shepherd(s) should:

- Practice Prepare.Care.Connect principles while on the trail.
- Communicate frequently between leader and shepherd to monitor the group’s condition and watch for any physical changes to hikers (wobbly knees, dehydration, etc.).
- Stay on trail to minimize impact on the land, this will also help prevent exposure to poison oak and ticks. After the outing, the leader and shepherd should facilitate a tick check.
- Stop in the first half hour for clothing changes, water break, and check in with group on outing pace and level of comfort.
- Keep a pace that works for all. Hike leaders should go the pace of the group, the leader might need to slow down their normal hiking pace.
- Count participants several times throughout the day to ensure no one has been left behind.
- Ensure at lunch break that all participants fulfil their needs such as eat, drink plenty of water, use the restroom (200 feet away from water and trail). Ask participants if there is anyone that doesn’t think they can physically finish the outing.
  - Use lunch break as an opportunity to discuss importance of Friends’ role in the protection of the Gorge, current updates, ways to take action, and in general, lunch is a great time to build community.
- Alert participants when passing through dangerous areas, leader and shepherd should supervise the group when passing through dangerous or hazardous areas.
- Stop at all trail junctions and regroup before continuing.

Updated 4/7/2022
Day of – Bathroom Breaks

Hike leaders and shepherd(s) should:

- Provide recommendations if participants ask about best practices for either urinating or defecating outdoors. Educate them on outdoor bathroom etiquette;
- If a participant needs a bathroom break, the shepherd needs to be alerted, and should walk up the trail a short distance to provide privacy. Participant should leave their pack on the side of the trail to signal where they went off trail.

Post-Outing Follow Up

- Send all documents that participants have signed, either by email or mail 1-2 days after the outing.
  - Sign-in form/liability waiver
  - Trip report
  - Hiker Sign-out form (liability release)
  - Runner Cards
- Scan and email documents to Outdoor Programs & Communications Specialist, or mail documents to 123 NE 3rd Avenue, Suite 108, Portland, OR 97232.
  - If emailed, after confirmed receipt of information, you agree to shred documents as they contain personal information.

Outing Cancellations

- Friends rarely cancel outings due to weather. However, an outing will be canceled if the weather or air quality is threatening, or after a major weather event (ex: thunder & lightning, snow, wildfire, wind if hike is in burn area), or if the trail is deemed unsafe.
  - If there is any snow travel involved, outings will be canceled. Friends does not provide training, nor provide equipment for participants to travel on snow or ice.
  - In the event of a Red Flag warning, or if a health/other safety concern arises that make the successful and safe completion of an outing too risky to proceed in the view of Friends' management, outings will be canceled.
- If the leader or shepherd have a last minute conflict, or are feeling sick/unwell within 7 days before the outing, please contact the outdoor programs & communications specialist immediately. Suggestions for a replacement leader or shepherd would be appreciated. Withdrawing from an outing cannot be completed online. Please contact Friends’ outdoor programs & communications specialist directly by phone at 971-634-1265 or by email at hikes@gorgefriends.org.

Updated 4/7/2022
What to Wear on a Friends Outing

- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes, sneakers, or boots;
- Dress for weather, extra layers for wet and cold weather, dress lightly for hot summer weather. Long sleeves and long pants are best in areas with poison oak and ticks;
  - The weather is unpredictable and can change quickly in the Gorge, and can be windy because of the exposed landscape, so all outing participants should always have layers in their day pack and be prepared for sudden weather changes.
  - Bring a jacket, fleece, and gloves for cold weather in the early morning or late afternoon.
  - If climbing uphill, bodies will heat up, stop to shed a layer or two.
  - Feeling sweaty and cold? Put a layer back on.
  - Be aware of the signs of hypothermia (prolonged exposure to the cold), and hyperthermia (prolonged exposure to the heat), both can happen in the Gorge.
- Hike leaders & shepherds should bring their Friends hat so they’re easy to spot at the outing location.

Photo: Friends Archive
Hike leaders and shepherds are expected to bring the "10+ Essentials" in their pack on all Friends outings. The more prepared the leaders and shepherds are, the better the experience the entire group will have on trail. On the event registration page, participants are encouraged to carry the 10+ essentials.

- Navigation - Printed hike description, compass, and map - Friends recommends the National Geographic Columbia River Gorge Trails Map, as well as a current map of the specific trail or day-use area the outing is at;
- First Aid Kit - fully stocked;
- Insulation & layers - Extra clothing including rain and wind gear, Gorge weather can be unpredictable;
- Hydration - Extra water, water filter, or water purifying tablets;
  - Friends recommends a 32oz water bottle
- Nutrition - Extra food and electrolyte supplements;
- Illumination - Headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries;
- Fire - Matches and fire starter;
- Repair kit & tools - Knife, multipurpose tool, and duct tape;
- Sun protection - Sunglasses, hat, and sunscreen;
- Whistle;
- Emergency Shelter - Blanket or bivy;
- Trash bag, Ziplock bag, and some toilet paper in case of bathroom emergency.

**Optional but recommended items include:**
- Hiking poles (if you don’t need them a participant might);
- Tecnu (poison oak wash);
- Tick or insect repellant;

Friends is working on providing sunscreen, insect repellant, and Ziplock bags with toilet paper (in case of bathroom emergency) to all leaders in the outing season.
All guided outings require online registration through Eventbrite. Upon registration, a confirmation email with more details is sent within 15 minutes;

All outings are open to the public, except when noted as “members only” or “partner event”;

Children under age 18 are welcome only with parent/guardian supervision;

Participants are responsible for their own safety;

Pets are not allowed unless outing is designated as dog or cat friendly;

Please leave alcohol and other intoxicants at home;

Fire arms and weapons are not allowed;

Smoking is not allowed;

Follow Oregon Prepare. Care. Connect. principles when on a Friends outing.

Hike difficulty levels are categorized as:

- Easy: Up to 3 miles | less than 700 ft. elevation gain
- Moderate: Up to 5 miles | less than 1,500 ft. elevation gain
- Strenuous: Up to 10 miles | up to 2,500 ft. elevation gain
- Expert: Over 10 miles | steep trail | over 2,500 feet elevation gain

Beginning September 1, 2021, Friends will be requiring proof of vaccination to participate in outdoor events. Friends believes that vaccination is a commitment to safety in our work to protect, preserve, and steward the Columbia Gorge for future generations. Vaccination is the current best way to protect those most vulnerable when working in public settings.

Given the nature of our outdoor and volunteer stewardship programs it is impossible to provide a completely risk-free environment, but to limit the risk of transmission to any attendees, staff, or Friends volunteers we’re asking that all registrants for Friends outdoor programs, stewardship activities, and other Friends events:

- provide proof of full vaccination;
- complete the CDC’s online Coronavirus Self-Checker with 48 hrs prior to the event; and
- follow any applicable federal, state, county or Friends COVID-19 safety guidance given by Friends staff or volunteers during the outing or event.
Emergency Action Plan for Outdoor Events

BEFORE EVENT:
1. Carry personal First Aid Kit in your pack, kit should be fully stocked and current.
2. Identify the closest source of Emergency Care and local Sheriff Department near outing location.
3. Identify Friends staff member to notify in case of injury or other emergency. Refer to contact list below.
5. Identify any first responders, or individuals at event who have updated First Aid training.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:
1. Initiate Care for patient to your level of training: First Aid certified staff, volunteer, participant.
   a) Assess level of care needed. Call 911 if life threatening emergency; *911 will initiate Search and Rescue with Sheriff Department if backcountry rescue is needed
   b) Triage injury with first aid supplies in your kit to your level of training;
   c) Refer patient to closest medical facility for treatment by a medical provider.
2. Report injury to Friends Outdoor Program staff immediately.
3. Notify Emergency Contact for injured person as listed on the Volunteer Sign-up sheet.
4. Documentation: Complete a Friends Incident Report Form for all injuries that are an insect sting or worse, even if medical treatment is not sought. The Outdoor Programs & Communications Specialist can assist with this step.
   a) If medical emergency and 911 is called, complete Runner Card with patient information to pass to EMS upon arrival.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS

STATE OF OREGON                          STATE OF WASHINGTON
Hood River County                        Clark County  360-397-2211
Multnomah County                        Klickitat County  509-773-4545
Wasco County  541-506-2580              Skamania county  509-427-9490

EMERGENCY MEDICAL FACILITIES

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<th>Medical Facility</th>
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<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>The Dalles</td>
<td>MCMC Immediate/Urgent Care, 551 Lone Pine Blvd, The Dalles, OR 97058, 541-506-5880</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Dalles (24hr)</td>
<td>Mid·Columbia Medical Center, 1700 East 19th Street The Dalles, OR 97058, 541-296-1111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hood River (24hr)</td>
<td>Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, 810 12th St., Hood River OR, 97031, 541-386-3911</td>
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<td>White Salmon (24hr)</td>
<td>Skyline Hospital, 211 Skyline Dr., White Salmon WA, 98672, 509-493-1101</td>
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<td>Washougal</td>
<td>Vancouver Clinic–Washougal Urgent Care, 291 C Street, Suite 110, Washougal, WA 98671, 360-882-2778</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vancouver (24hr)</td>
<td>PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center, 400 NE Mother Joseph Pl., Vancouver WA, 98664, 360-514-2000</td>
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<td>Portland (24hr)</td>
<td>Providence Medical Center, 4805 NE Glisan St., Portland OR, 97213, 503-215-1111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gresham/TROUTDALE (24hr)</td>
<td>Legacy Mount Hood Medical Center, 24800 SE Stark St., Gresham OR, 97030, 503-238-7433</td>
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</tbody>
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FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE OUTDOOR PROGRAM CONTACTS

Melissa Gonzalez, Outdoor Program & Communications Specialist  Cell: 239-404-9248
Burt Edwards, Communications Director (Public Engagement Team lead)  Cell: 703-861-8237

Updated 4/7/2022
Lost Person Protocol

If a participant, leader, or shepherd go missing or break off from the group without notifying the leader and shepherd, please do the following:

- If there is cell phone reception, attempt to call the missing person;
  - If they cannot be reached, attempt to make voice contact by using a group yell of the person’s name.
- Blow whistle in three short blasts, wait, then repeat;
- Assess the area and scan for potential hazards or unsafe conditions. If area is safe then begin search for 15 minutes;
  - Keep part of the group with the shepherd at the site where the lost person was last seen. The other group should hike up and down the trail and around the area yelling for the lost person;
- If 15 minutes have passed without locating the lost person, call 911 and seek assistance immediately;
  - *911 will initiate Search and Rescue with Sheriff Department if backcountry rescue is needed*
- Report lost person to Friends Outdoor Program staff;
- Notify Emergency Contact for injured person as listed on the Volunteer Sign-up sheet;
- Documentation: Complete a Friends Incident Report Form.

Refer to the “Emergency Action Plan for Outdoor Events” document for contact information.
“Prepare, Care, and Connect” is a part of the “Take Care Out There” campaign, reflecting the responsible recreation practices that matter most statewide. As interest in Oregon’s outdoor recreation grows, so does the need to preserve and protect our treasured natural assets.

Prepare:

- **Plan Ahead:** Prepare before you head out, consider what you want to see and experience, your group’s physical abilities and what’s realistic to do in the time you have. Can you visit off peak to avoid crowds?
- **Be Ready:** Check conditions. Pack your Ten Essentials. Got the right shoes for the terrain? Water? Cell phone? You may not always have coverage, so take a picture of the trail map or bring one with you. Consider hiring a guide.
- **Don’t Forget:** Let someone know where you’re headed and when you plan to be back. Tuck some cash in your pocket for park fees (that help maintain our natural spaces).

Care:

- **Make Smart Choices:** Know your limits and when to stop for the day. Follow the signs; they’re there to tell you important stuff like how to avoid injuries and not get lost.
- **Be Respectful:** If you’re lucky enough to spot wildlife, use your zoom lens and observe from afar. Share trails with others. Know who manages the land you access and what the rules and regulations are.
- **Keep It Natural:** Stay on designated trails and areas to protect the landscape. Don’t take anything home but your trash—and please, please take your trash with you. Make wildfire prevention a top priority.

Connect:

- **Enjoy Yourself:** Experiencing the quiet, awe-inspiring beauty of nature can not only uplift your spirits, it can improve your health. Think of Oregon’s vast outdoors as your place to relax and recharge.
- **Say Hello:** Greet fellow adventurers and spark a conversation. Check in at a visitor center, ranger station and/or local business to learn from the locals, grab a map and gather local insight.
- **Spread Goodwill:** Share your knowledge with others if it’s helpful. Support the community—eat, drink, shop and stay local. Stop by cultural centers to learn our history and relationship to place.

Updated 4/7/2022
Ensuring the Gorge remains a vibrant, living place—wondrous, wild, and accessible for all—is at the core of what we do.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge works to protect, preserve, and steward the Columbia Gorge for future generations.

We are the only conservation organization entirely dedicated to safeguarding the Columbia Gorge’s scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources. For over four decades, we have successfully advocated to protect the Gorge from irresponsible development, purchased scenic and sensitive lands for long-term preservation, and worked with community partners to foster a larger culture of Gorge stewardship by connecting thousands of students and volunteers to the Gorge’s wonders.

Learn more at gorgefriends.org or follow us: @GorgeFriends.

Friends Offices: Hood River | Portland | Washougal

More About Friends’ Public Engagement Team

A large cross section of public support is critical if we are to preserve the Columbia Gorge for future generations. To meet this challenge, Friends seeks to strengthen community support for key conservation initiatives, expose local youth to the Gorge’s wonders, and illustrate the Gorge’s significance as an icon of the Pacific NW and national treasure.

We annually lead more than 100 guided Gorge hikes and outings; organize programs in partnership with local schools to expose hundreds of students from Washington and Oregon to the Gorge’s wonders; and work with community partners to create opportunities for members of the public to come together and discuss pressing challenges facing the Gorge. A vital tool in our broader engagement efforts is the thousands of dedicated Friends members, volunteers, and activists who live in and around the Gorge.
Hike Leader & Shepherd Manual Acknowledgement

Alternatively, submit this agreement online: gorgefriends.org/agree

I, _____________________________, acknowledge that I have received and read the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Hike Leader & Shepherd Manual.

I am aware that I am expected to follow the guidelines set forth in this manual.

I also understand preparation is key in providing the safest possible outdoor experience.

If I have any questions about this manual or any other policy or procedure, I understand that I can contact the Outdoor Programs & Communications Specialist at hikes@gorgefriends.org 971-634-1265.

Signature  ______________________________

Date  ________________

Sign, date, and return to the Outdoor Programs & Communications Specialist

1. Scan or take a photo and email to hikes@gorgefriends.org

2. Mail to: Friends of the Columbia Gorge
   Attn: Outdoor Programs & Communications Specialist
   123 NE 3rd Avenue, Suite 108
   Portland, OR 97232

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